

**OPINION 2082 (Case 3070)*****Phrynus ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843 (Arachnida, Amblypygi): specific name given precedence over the specific names of *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Phalangium lunatum* Pallas, 1772**

**Abstract.** The Commission has ruled that the specific name of *Phrynus ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843 for a species of whip spider from Sri Lanka (family PHRYNICHIDAE) is conserved by giving it precedence over the senior subjective synonyms *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Phalangium lunatum* Pallas, 1772 whenever the names are considered to be synonyms.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; Amblypygi; PHRYNICHIDAE; *Phrynichus*; *Phalangium*; *Phrynichus ceylonicus*; *Phalangium reniforme*; *Phalangium lunatum*; whip spider; Sri Lanka.

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**Ruling**

- (1) Under the plenary power it is hereby ruled that the name *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, is given precedence over the names *reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium reniforme*, and *lunatum* Pallas, 1772, as published in the binomen *Phalangium lunatum*, whenever it and either of the other two are considered to be synonyms.
- (2) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Phrynichus* Karsch, 1879 (gender: masculine), type species by original designation *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758;
  - (b) *Phalangium* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender: neuter), type species by subsequent designation by Latreille (1810) *Phalangium opilio* Linnaeus, 1758.
- (3) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, with the endorsement that it is to be given precedence over the names *reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium reniforme*, and *lunatum* Pallas, 1772, as published in the binomen *Phalangium lunatum*, whenever it and either of the other two are considered to be synonyms;
  - (b) *reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium reniforme*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms (specific name of the type species of *Phrynichus* Karsch, 1879);
  - (c) *lunatum* Pallas, 1772, as published in the binomen *Phalangium lunatum*, with the endorsement that it is not to be given priority over the name *ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843, as published in the binomen *Phrynus ceylonicus*, whenever the two are considered to be synonyms;

- (d) *opilio* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Phalangium opilio* (specific name of the type species of *Phalangium* Linnaeus, 1758).

### History of Case 3070

An application to conserve the specific name *Phrynus ceylonicus* C.L. Koch, 1843 for a species of whip spider from Sri Lanka (family PHRYNICHIDAE) by giving it precedence over the senior subjective synonyms *Phalangium reniforme* Linnaeus, 1758 and *Phalangium lunatum* Pallas, 1772, was received from Peter Weygoldt (*Institut für Biologie I (Zoologie), Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg, Germany*) on 29 September 1997. After correspondence the case was published in BZN 59: 242–245. The title, abstract and keywords of the case were published on the Commission's website. No comments on this case were received.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 2004 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 59: 243. At the close of the voting period on 1 June 2004 the votes were as follows: 15 Commissioners voted FOR the proposals, 6 Commissioners voted AGAINST, Bouchet, Calder and Ng were on leave of absence, no vote was received from Macpherson.

Voting against, Alonso-Zarazaga commented that 'once the confusion has been solved, the Principle of Priority must stand. The use of the name *Phrynus ceylonicus* in recent times seems to follow the overlooking of Karsch's (1879) conclusions, which is difficult to understand, since Karsch's genus *Phrynichus* is in common use. I think it is more stabilizing to use the valid Linnean name *Phrynichus reniformis* (which is also the type species name) once and for all, and supersede the old misuses in the future'. Mahnert, also voting against, commented that application of the Principle of Priority would not alter current understanding of the species involved, even if confusion between the three specific names was common in the older literature. In addition, Štys commented that conditional suppressions are usually hardly understandable for those students of the group who are not interested in or do not have access to pertinent nomenclatural sources. He was not in favour of giving precedence to a junior name over a Linnean name whose application is unproblematic since the type specimen is extant and which was often quoted as a type species of the genus.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

- ceylonicus*, *Phrynus*, C.L. Koch, 1843, *Die Arachniden. Getreu nach der Natur Abgebildet und Beschrieben*, vol. 10, p. 35.  
*lunatum*, *Phalangium*, Pallas, 1772, *Spicilegia Zoologica*, vol. 9, p. 35.  
*opilio*, *Phalangium*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 618.  
*Phalangium* Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 618.  
*Phrynichus* Karsch, 1879, *Archiv für Naturgeschichte (Berlin)*, 45: 197.  
*reniforme*, *Phalangium*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Systema Naturae*, Ed. 10, vol. 1, p. 619.

The following is the reference for the designation of *Phalangium opilio* Linnaeus, 1758 as the type species of *Phalangium* Linnaeus, 1758:

- Latreille, P.A. 1810. *Considérations générales sur l'ordre naturel des Animaux composant les classes des Crustacés, des Arachnides, et des Insectes: avec un Tableau méthodique de leurs genres, disposés en familles*, p. 425.